

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 22, 25 and 35-37 have been amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 22-30 and 35-37 are pending, and claims 1-21 and 31-34 have been canceled.

Claim 36 has been amended to overcome the objection noted by the examiner.

Claims 22-24, 26-28 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fultz (US 5,445,483). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the tool is for a bicycle crank axle bolt and that the plurality of splines and dimensioned to engage a corresponding plurality of splines disposed on the bicycle crank axle bolt, wherein rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt. Claims 35 and 36 have been amended to clarify that the gripping rim projects axially away from a side surface of the tool operating member. Claim 37 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 22 to clarify that rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt.

Fultz discloses a clinch fastening nut used to fasten bolts to a metal sheet. As such, Fultz fails to disclose or suggest a tool for a bicycle crank axle bolt. There is no evidence that the plurality of splines (35) are dimensioned to engage a corresponding plurality of splines disposed on a bicycle crank axle bolt, wherein rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt as recited in claims 22 and 37. Splines (35) are intended to nonrotatably couple the nut to a metal sheet, not to be used as a tool. Fultz also neither discloses nor suggests a gripping rim that projects axially away from a side of a tool operating member as recited in claims 35 and 36, especially if flange (33) is interpreted to be a tool operating member.

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano (EP 0512149). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 37 has been amended to clarify that the tool is for a bicycle crank axle bolt that screws to a crank axle that rotates as the bicycle is pedaled so that the crank axle bolt attaches a crank arm to the crank axle so that the bicycle crank axle bolt and the crank arm rotate with the crank axle as the bicycle is pedaled. Rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt. Nagano discloses a tool (9) with a plurality of splines (12a) dimensioned to engage splines (10a) formed in a screw ring (3) that nonrotatably fastens an axle assembly to a bottom bracket (5) of a bicycle. Such a screw ring (3) is much larger than the unnumbered crank axle bolt shown in Nagano's Fig. 2 and does not rotate as the bicycle is being pedaled. Thus, Nagano neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in amended claim 37.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kanaan, et al (US 5,947,671). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 25 has been amended to clarify that the tool operating member is longitudinally immovable relative to the tool body. Kanaan, et al discloses a clamping device wherein a ring member (24), interpreted in the office action to be a tool operating member, is longitudinally movable relative to flange (18), which was interpreted to be a tool body. Thus, Kanaan, et al neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claim 25.

Claims 22-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Trembley (US 3,742,808). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the plurality of splines are dimensioned to engage a corresponding plurality of splines disposed on a bicycle crank axle bolt, wherein rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt. Trembley discloses a self-sealing female fastener. As such, Trembley fails to disclose or suggest a tool for a bicycle crank axle bolt. There is no evidence that the plurality of wrenching surfaces (34) are dimensioned to engage a corresponding plurality of splines disposed on a bicycle crank axle bolt, wherein rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of

splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt. Indeed, wrenching surfaces (34) are intended to be engaged by a tool, not to be the tool itself.

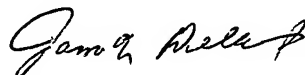
Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Trembley. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claims 22 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Berez (US 4,367,060). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the plurality of splines are dimensioned to engage a corresponding plurality of splines disposed on a bicycle crank axle bolt, wherein rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt. Berez discloses a fluid-sealing nut. As such, Berez fails to disclose or suggest a tool for a bicycle crank axle bolt. There is no evidence that the plurality of wrenching surfaces (20) are dimensioned to engage a corresponding plurality of splines disposed on a bicycle crank axle bolt, wherein rotation of the tool operating member rotates the plurality of splines on the tool body to thereby rotate the bicycle crank axle bolt. Indeed, wrenching surfaces (20) are intended to be engaged by a tool, not to be the tool itself.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Deland
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 69
Klamath River, California 96050
(530) 465-2430